



The Georgia Senate This Week

Senate Press Office ♦ 201 Coverdell Legislative Office Building ♦ Atlanta, Georgia ♦ 404.656.0028

“Merlot-to-go” gets nod from Senate

For the second year in a row, the Senate passed a bill that will allow consumers to take home an opened bottle of wine from a restaurant – provided the bottle is professionally sealed by the restaurant, placed in a container and placed in the glove compartment or trunk of the vehicle they are driving. The measure passed 48-4.

Sen. **Renee Unterman** of the 45th, who refers to her legislation, *Senate Bill 55*, as the “Merlot-to-go” bill, said that it is a good piece of legislation and will prevent restaurant customers from feeling that they are obligated to drink an expensive bottle of wine in its entirety prior to leaving the restaurant.

“This way they can reseal it and take it with them to finish in the privacy of their own home,” she said following the vote. “It might even help to reduce the impaired drivers on our roads – I say it’s a win-win for everyone.”

Gov. **Sonny Perdue** vetoed similar legislation last year, saying it would violate Georgia’s open container law. Sen. **Unterman** said those issues have been addressed in the new legislation.



Senate likes idea of zero-based budgeting

Forcing the state budget to be rebuilt from scratch every four years is an idea whose time has come, the Senate decided this week, and voted 52-0 to require that one quarter of the state budget undergo a complete examination each year, so that every four years, all state programs are re-evaluated prior to funding.

“One-fourth of the budget will be forced to undergo zero-based budgeting every year,” said Sen. **David Shafer** of the 48th, the author of *Senate Bill 12*. “Every four years, the budget will be rebuilt from scratch to force the executive branch to justify every item of spending.”

Each year, Georgia’s state agencies request new funding for their programs – and only this “new” money is scrutinized by legislators. The remainder of the budget is considered “continuous spending,” and just rolls over from fiscal year to fiscal year. This year’s budget is more than \$20 billion.

Goodbye Gerald, we will miss you . . .

A longtime fixture in the Georgia Senate was honored this week with a resolution recognizing him for his dedication to the Georgia General Assembly and his many years in the Georgia Senate. Georgia Public Broadcasting’s *Lawmakers* anchor, **Gerald Bryant**, retired last year, and turned his anchor chair and some of his ties (for those of you who don’t know, **Gerald** never wore the same tie during any legislative session) to his successor **David Zelski**. We’ll miss you **Gerald**!

In Committee Action . . .

Administrative Affairs Committee

The Administrative Affairs Committee did not meet this week.

Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee

On Monday, February 26, Chairman **John Bulloch** of the 11th called the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs meeting to order. Sen. **Bulloch** then gave an introduction of his bill, *Senate Bill 326*, which urges Congress to reform the U.S. sugar policy. **Kevin Perry** of the Georgia Beverage Association gave his support of the bill. *SB 326* then passed unanimously. Sen. **Curt Thompson** of the 5th presented the bill he authored, *Senate Bill 207*. His bill would create a Department of Agriculture Website that keeps track of current gas prices at all fuel stations statewide. **Oscar Garrison** with Consumer Protection of the Georgia Department of Agriculture spoke to the bill, giving his concerns about the practicality of updating current fuel prices at each fuel station in the state. Other concerns he expressed included the new staff required in the Department of Agriculture to keep the new system functioning. **Jim Tutor** of the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores also spoke in opposition to the bill. The bill stayed in committee and will be brought up for a vote at a later date. Next, Sen. **Bulloch** introduced *SB 220*. The bill will bring the agriculture warehouse receipt requirements up to date by removing the requirement that receipt printers be bonded.

Appropriations Committee

The Appropriations Committee met on Wednesday, February 21, and adopted the Rules for the Committee. Appropriations Committee Chairman, Sen. **Jack Hill** of the 4th, called on Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18th who introduced *Senate Bill 29*, legislation to require the Office of Planning and Budget to make the budget available on-line so that the citizens of Georgia can see how the state budget is put together. The Committee Substitute passed unanimously. The Committee also took up *SB 12*, legislation introduced by Sen. **David Shafer** of the 48th. *SB 12*, also known as the *Zero-based Budgeting Act*, requires that one quarter of the budget undergo a review by the General Assembly each year to determine if the objectives of the programs are being met. The bill passed by Committee Substitute.

Banking and Financial Institutions Committee

The Banking and Financial Institutions Committee did not meet this week.

Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee did not meet this week.

Education and Youth Committee

Chairman **Dan Weber** of the 40th called the Committee to order on Tuesday, February 27. Sen. **Preston Smith** of the 52nd presented *SB 168* and *SB 170*, both of which concern hearing impaired students in Georgia. Known as the *Deaf Child's Bill of Rights*, *SB 168* would require local school systems to consider the related services and program options when developing an individualized education program (IEP) for a deaf child. After several individuals spoke in favor of the bill, including some of Sen. **Smith's** constituents, *SB 168* passed by a unanimous vote. Sen. **Smith** then explained *SB 170*, which provides that any student's demonstrated proficiency in American Sign Language will be accepted as foreign language credit toward a college preparatory diploma. After his explanation, Sen. **Smith** moved to amend his bill by including the entirety of *SB 206* by Sen. **Regina Thomas** of the 2nd as a new Section 1a. *SB 206* would allow American Sign Language to be accepted for foreign language credit by local school systems. The amendment was adopted by a unanimous vote, and *SB 168* passed as amended unanimously. Next, Sen. **Chip Rogers** of the 21st presented *SB 123*, which would require a school to place twins or multiples from the same family in the same classroom if the

children are in the same grade level and the children's parent or guardian requests the placement. Several audience members who have twins or multiples spoke in favor of the bill. **Jim Puckett** of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) expressed concerns that the bill could interfere with mandated class-size requirements. Sen. **Dan Moody** of the 56th stated he supports *SB 123*, but is concerned that the bill may require schools to keep children with behavioral issues in the same classroom. Sen. **Rogers** said he would be open to amending the bill on the Senate floor, and *SB 123* passed by a unanimous vote.

Ethics Committee

Chairman **Renee Unterman** of the 45th called the Committee to order on Thursday, February 22, to consider two bills. Senator **John Douglas** of the 17th presented *Senate Resolution 279*, which proposes a constitutional amendment to provide for staggered, four-year terms of office for members of the state Senate. The legislation passed by a 5 to 1 vote, with Sen. **Eric Johnson** of the 1st in dissent. Next, Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18th presented *SB 179*, which would repeal the state's prohibition against campaign contributions from persons acting on behalf of a public utility. Sen. **Staton** added that utilities would still be prohibited from contributing to candidates running for the Public Service Commission. Representatives of the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) coalition, Georgia Chamber of Commerce and Verizon Wireless spoke in favor of the bill. Lobbyists representing the Georgia chapter of the Sierra Club, Georgia League of Women Voters, AARP of Georgia and Common Cause opposed the bill. *SB 179* passed through the Committee by a 5 to 2 vote, with Senators **Johnson** and **Kasim Reed** of the 35th in dissent. Sen. **Reed** added that he plans to file a minority report on the issue.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee did not meet this week.

Government Oversight Committee

The Government Oversight Committee did not meet this week.

Health and Human Services Committee

Chairman **Don Thomas** of the 54th called the meeting to order Tuesday, February 20. The Committee held a hearing for *Senate Bill 150*, which was presented by Sen. **Judson Hill** of the 32nd. The bill seeks to reduce the uninsured population in Georgia by establishing several new incentives and programs that will facilitate and encourage the uninsured to adopt health insurance coverage.

The Committee reconvened on Thursday, February 22, to consider *SB 178* and continue the hearing for *SB 150*. Sen. **Don Balfour** of the 9th presented *SB 178*, which revises current law for which the State Board of Pharmacy may suspend, revoke or refuse to grant a license for distributing prescription drugs through the mail. **Ira Katz**, an independent pharmacist, and **John Sherrer** of the Georgia Pharmacy Association spoke against *SB 178*, stating that the bill would affect the way that pharmacists practice in Georgia. *SB 178* was tabled for further amendment. Next, the Committee held another hearing for *SB 150*, which was presented by Sen. **Hill**. After several testimonies, Sen. **Thomas** concluded the meeting by stating that *SB 150* may come up again for a vote at another meeting.

The Committee met again Tuesday, February 27, to consider several bills. Sen. **Hill** presented *SB 150* for discussion again. After much deliberation, *SB 150* was tabled by Committee Substitute with a vote of 11 to 1. Next, Sen. **Balfour** presented *Senate Bills 155* and *178*, which were read at a previous meeting. *SB 155* requires all girls to be vaccinated for the human papilloma virus prior to admission into the sixth grade, unless such vaccination conflicts with the religious beliefs of a parent or guardian. Sen. **Balfour** then moved to amend his substitute, so that it would be effective beginning with the 2008 school year, including a sunset clause that would rescind the legislation in 2011 and that the mandate be rescinded if there is a federal recall by the FDA of the vaccine. *SB 155* passed through Committee Substitute as amended with a vote of 8 to 3. Then, *SB 178* passed by Committee

Substitute with a vote of 7 to 3. Sen. **Nancy Schaefer** of the 50th presented *Senate Bill 66*, which requires that a woman seeking an abortion be offered an ultrasound or sonogram, as well as the opportunity to view the ultrasound image, before any abortion can be performed. After the amendment by Sen. **Schaefer**, which removes the misdemeanor penalty from the bill, *SB 66* passed by Committee Substitute as amended with a vote of 8 to 4. *Senate Bill 222* was presented by Sen. **Johnny Grant** of the 25th. *SB 222* seeks to rectify errors in the *Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Act* and a certified nurse anesthetist may meet the definition of advanced practice registered nurse if he or she meets certain educational and training standards. *SB 66* passed by Committee Substitute with a unanimous vote.

Higher Education Committee

Chairman **Seth Harp** of the 29th called the Higher Education Committee meeting to order on Thursday, February 27, to look at *Senate Bill 169*. Sen. **Bill Hamrick** of the 30th gave a brief presentation, and after some discussion the bill passed unanimously.

Insurance and Labor Committee

The Committee met on Wednesday, February 21, to take up three bills. Sen. **Robert Brown** of the 26th presented *Senate Bill 13*, which would preempt the federal minimum wage and raise the state minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$6.20. On January 1, 2008, the minimum wage would increase to \$7.25 per hour. On January 1, 2009, and on each successive January 1, the minimum wage would increase by the rise in the cost of living. **Alan Essig** of the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, **Richard Ray** of the Georgia AFL-CIO and Dr. **Bruce Kaufman**, an economist from Georgia State University all testified in favor of *SB 13*. The Committee then heard testimony in opposition to *SB 13* from different groups, including the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Georgia Restaurant Association, Americans for Prosperity and Georgia Chamber of Commerce. After much deliberation, Sen. **Chip Rogers** proposed several amendments that would change provisions of the bill. The amendments were all adopted by a vote of 4 to 3. *SB 13* failed as amended by a vote of 4 to 4, with Chairman **Ralph Hudgens** of the 47th casting the deciding vote. Chairman **Hudgens** then presented *Senate Bill 109*, which would repeal the current law that requires a business that acts as an administrator or an employee benefit plan and is regulated by ERISA to be licensed as an administrator. Georgia Insurance Commissioner **John Oxendine** testified in support of the bill. A representative from the Longstreet Clinic in Gainesville and **Mark Russ**, a healthcare lawyer both testified in favor of the bill. **Kirk McGhee** of the Georgia Association of Health Plans spoke against the bill. After more debate, *SB 109* passed by a vote of 3 to 2. Sen. **Judson Hill** presented *SB 153*, which authorizes the Insurance Commissioner to develop guidelines for Consumer Driven Health Insurance Plans. After some debate, *SB 153* passed unanimously as amended.

Interstate Cooperation Committee

The Interstate Cooperation Committee did not meet this week.

Joint Senate and House Health and Human Services Committee

Senate Chairman **Don Thomas** of the 54th and House Chairman **Sharon Cooper** of the 41st called the joint meeting to order on Friday, February 23. The Committee held a hearing on Certificate of Need (CON) issues relating to *SB 189*, which was presented by Sen. **Thomas**. The legislation revises the definition of "new institutional health service" for purposes of certificate of need by exempting surgeries performed prior to July 1, 2007, in the office of a single-specialty private physician where the capital expenditure does not exceed \$ 1,610,823. **Mark J. Botti** of the U.S. Department of Justice, Dr. **Ardis Hoven** of the American Medical Association and **Vince Falcione**, external relations manager for Proctor and Gamble, spoke in opposition to the process of CON, citing that it gets in the way of competition and fails to restrain overall health costs. Sen. **Thomas** stated the bill would come up at a later meeting.

Judiciary Committee

On Thursday, February 22, the Committee met to take up several bills, beginning with *Senate Bill 98*. Senator **Bill Hamrick** of the 30th presented the bill, explaining that it simply modernizes existing law in regards to the sexual exploitation of children over the Internet, by adding language to include new technologies that have been developed since the original bill was drafted. GBI Director **Vernon Keenan** testified in support of the bill, explaining that it would help expedite investigations by allowing the GBI to obtain evidence without a subpoena. **Sandra Michaels** from the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers testified in support of the bill and offered a minor language change. Sen. **Hamrick** decided to not move forward with any changes, but accepted an amendment proposed by Sen. **John Wiles** of the 37th. The Committee Substitute passed as amended unanimously. Sen. **Chip Pearson** of the 51st presented *SB 100*, which increases the punishment for persons under 21 who are charged with knowingly manufacturing, selling or distributing a false ID. Several Committee members suggested various changes to the bill's language for clarification, all of which were compiled into an amendment. The Committee Substitute passed unanimously as amended. Sen. **Seth Harp** of the 29th presented his bill, *SB 42*, which allows the Department of Human Resources to impose reasonable fees within child support collections in order to recover its costs. Several witnesses presented testimonies both in support and in opposition to the bill. Chairman **Smith** decided to table the bill until the language concerning the phrase "reasonable fee" is clarified. Finally, *SB 88* was presented by Sen. **Renee Unterman** of the 45th. The legislation, also called the *Care of a Grandchild Act*, allows grandparents who are already caring for a grandchild to get legal authority to act on behalf of the child, whose parents are unable to care for them. Sen. **Bill Cowsert** of the 46th proposed an amendment clarifying language, which passed unanimously. The bill subsequently passed unanimously.

The Committee reconvened on Friday, February 23. *SB 67*, which was presented by Sen. **Wiles**, states that counties will not be held responsible for contingent expenses incurred during a court case. Several witnesses testified in support of the bill, which passed unanimously. Sen. **Wiles** then presented *SB 139*, which looks to transfer the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council from the judicial branch to the executive branch, and requires that the Council submit its budget to the Office of Planning and Budget. A representative from the Public Defenders Council proposed a language change, which was put into an amendment by the Committee. *SB 139* passed by substitute as amended by a vote of 6 to 1, with Sen. **Kasim Reed** of the 35th in dissent. *SB 142* was presented by Chairman **Smith**, who explained the legislation states that the hiring of additional personnel by circuit public defenders is subject to approval by the local governing authority. **Kem Kimbrough** of the ACCG testified in support of the bill, which passed unanimously. Chairman **Smith** introduced *SB 141*, which provides for an additional four members to be appointed to the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, all of whom would be elected county commissioners. **Jerry Werd** of the PDSC and **Kimbrough** testified in support of the bill. Sen. **Mitch Seabaugh** of the 28th recommended adding language that would stipulate that one of the four county commissioners appointed to the board be from a county with a small population. The language will be drafted into a floor amendment. *SB 141* passed unanimously. Chairman **Smith** presented the last bill, *SB 140*, which increases the number of members appointed to each of the ten judicial circuit public defender section panels from five to seven. Several witnesses testified in favor of the bill. Chairman **Smith** proposed two amendments, one changing the two-year term provisions and the other amending the removal section of the bill. The Committee Substitute passed as amended by a vote of 5 to 2, with Senators **Reed** and **Vincent Fort** of the 39th in dissent. *Senate Resolution 246*, presented by Sen. **Wiles**, creates a Joint Study Committee on Indigent Defense that will study the issues and needs related to the Indigent Defense System in Georgia. The PDSC asked that a circuit public defender be added to the Study Committee. Chairman **Smith** ruled that this provision would be added at a later time. The Committee Substitute passed by a unanimous vote as amended.

Chairman **Smith** called another meeting to order on Monday, February 26, to take up five bills. The first was *SB 133*, presented by Sen. **Ed Tarver** of the 22nd, which increases the maximum amount a bankruptcy debtor can exempt for the value of his or her property. **Bob Silliman** from the Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustees Office testified in opposition to the bill, saying that it is balanced unfairly to creditors. Sen. **Harp** moved to table the bill until Sen. **Tarver** could provide the Committee with information on homestead exemptions in other

states. Chairman **Smith** moved the bill to a later meeting. He then introduced *SB 134*, which allows the Attorney General to retain experts to assist with public disclosure requirements in hospital acquisitions. The bill passed unanimously. *SB 188* was then presented by Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd, who explained that the legislation gives foster parents who provide care through private agencies with equal standing as those who go through the Department of Family and Children Services. The idea for the legislation was brought to his attention by constituent **Tracy Brun**, who presented her testimony to the Committee. **Douglas Meade** of Georgia AGAPE also testified in favor of the bill, and recommended adding language to include both private and public agencies, and for some other clarifications. Chairman **Smith** suggested that Sen. **Thompson** of the 33rd prepare a floor amendment to further clarify the bill. Sen. **Joseph Carter** of the 13th then proposed a language change, which was incorporated into an amendment. The Committee Substitute passed as amended unanimously. Sen. **Bill Hamrick** of the 30th presented *SB 106*, which extends the period of time that a court may require a surety bond for good behavior after a warrant is issued, from 60 days to six months. An amendment was created to add a phrase regarding the time limit. The Committee Substitute passed as amended unanimously. Finally, Sen. **Harp** presented *SB 42* with the language clarification incorporated, including another amendment that splits the fee between the custodial and non-custodial parent. The Committee Substitute as amended passed unanimously.

Natural Resources and the Environment Committee

Chairman **Ross Tolleson** of the 20th called the Committee to order on Wednesday, February 21, to consider three bills. Sen. **Tolleson** presented *Senate Bill 116*, which would remove the provision in current law that requires the director of the State Forestry Commission to have earned a minimum of a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry. Executive Vice President **Steve McWilliams** of the Georgia Forestry Association testified that the association withdraws their opposition to the bill. The Committee then heard testimony from three citizens from around the state who all expressed concerns over the bill. Sen. **Tolleson** stated he would work to perfect the bill's language on the Senate floor and the bill passed unanimously. Next, Sen. **Tolleson** presented *SB 157*, which would require the Department of Natural Resources to establish a grant program to fund the costs of E-85 projects. The bill passed unanimously. Chairman **Tolleson** announced that *SB 3*, sponsored by Sen. **John Douglas** of the 17th, would be discussed next meeting.

Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

Chairman **Jim Whitehead** of the 24th called the meeting to order on Tuesday, February 27. Senator **Chip Rogers** of the 21st presented *Senate Bill 202*, which would move the recently created Mattie's Call Alert under the jurisdiction of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The measure was approved unanimously. Committee members then heard a presentation on *SB 33*. The bill would allow the use of a program to map public buildings for use by first responding rescue and fire units. Sen. **Ed Harbison** of the 15th told members that the federal government has allocated funding through the Department of Homeland Security for the mapping program. The legislation was approved by a unanimous vote. Sen. **Tommie Williams** of the 19th then introduced the Committee Substitute for *SB 77*. The bill directs local tag agents to accept and process commercial truck fleets under the International Registration Plan (IRP). The IRP allows easy collection of truck tags across the United States and Canada. Several local Tax Commissioners expressed their minor concerns over the legislation. Spalding County Tax Commissioner **Sylvia Hollums** said that while the legislation does not create an undue burden, it could require staffing additions at tax offices to handle the extra work. **Ed Crowell** with the Georgia Association of Motor Truckers also testified in favor of the bill. The bill was approved by a unanimous vote.

Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee

The Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee did not meet this week.

Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee

The Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee did not meet this week.

Retirement Committee

On Wednesday, February 21, the Retirement Committee held its first meeting of the 2007 session. Chairman **Bill Heath** of the 31st explained that *Senate Bill 112* and *Senate Bill 163* could not be voted on during the day's meeting. Sen. **Heath** read the committee rules and after a motion, they were passed unanimously. Sen. **Mitch Seabaugh** of the 28th spoke about his bill, *Senate Bill 47*. The bill provides that school districts may agree to assist employees in investing in qualified retirement plans by using a portion of the employee's salary. Sen. **Jack Murphy** of the 27th gave his thoughts about how it would affect different districts, while Sen. **Preston Smith** of the 52nd spoke about how he cannot support a bill that takes control away from a local school district. After the committee expressed their thoughts, several audience members offered mixed opinions on the bill. With a 3 to 3 stalemate vote on the bill, Chairman **Heath** assigned the bill to a subcommittee for further study and development. The subcommittee is comprised of Senators **Horacena Tate** of the 38th, Sen. **Murphy** and Sen. **Smith**. Next, Sen. **Judson Hill** of the 32nd spoke about *Senate Bill 80*. The bill is for the amendment of current public retirement systems investment law. *SB 80* stayed in committee to be brought up at a further date.

Rules Committee

The Rules Committee did not meet as a standing committee this week.

Science and Technology Committee

Chairman **Cecil Staton** of the 18th called the meeting to order on Tuesday, February 20. First, the Committee heard a presentation from Dr. **Robert Matheny** of Atlanta Cardiovascular, which focused on adult stem cells in regards to *Senate Bill 148*. Then, the Committee discussed and heard testimonies for *SB 148*, also known as the *Saving the Cure Act*, which creates the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank for postnatal tissue and fluid. **Ron Grabb**, coordinator for the Georgia chapter of the Parkinson's Action Network, was in attendance to discuss the bill.

The Committee reconvened Thursday, February 22, to continue the discussion on *SB 148*. Dr. **David Hess**, chair of the department of neurology at the Medical College of Georgia, addressed the Committee via video feed in regards to *SB 148*. **Charles Craig**, president of the Georgia Biomedical Partnership, spoke against the bill. After some deliberation, *SB 148* passed through Committee.

Special Judiciary Committee

Chairman **Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12th called the Committee to order on Thursday, February 22. Senator **Bill Hamrick** of the 30th presented the Committee Substitute to *Senate Bill 135*. The legislation was heard at a previous meeting, and would increase current penalties for the criminal reproduction and sale of recorded materials, more commonly referred to as music piracy. Sen. **Hamrick** highlighted the changes in the substitute, and it passed by a unanimous vote. Sen. **Seth Harp** of the 29th then presented *SB 41*, which was also heard at a previous meeting. The bill would require gated or secured communities to allow access to a process server and require any person serving process papers to file proof of service within five business days. Sen. **Harp** presented a Committee Amendment, which he said addressed some of the concerns raised at the original hearing on *SB 41*. Harris County Sheriff **Mike Jolley** and Executive Director **Terry Norris** of the Georgia Sheriff's Association both expressed their concerns about the bill. Then, Sen. **Dan Weber** of the 40th and Sen. **Harp** both offered some language changes to the Committee Amendment. After some discussion, the Committee Amendment was adopted as amended by a unanimous vote. Sen. **Bill Cowsert** of the 46th offered another amendment, stating that no process server shall carry a firearm unless they are a sworn sheriff's deputy. **John Robinson** of the Georgia Association of Professional Private Investigators (GAPPI) spoke against Sen. **Cowsert's** amendment. Sen. **Cowsert** then moved to withdraw his amendment, and *SB 41* passed by substitute by a 5 to 1 vote.

The Committee reconvened on Tuesday, February 27, to consider two bills. Sen. **Curt Thompson** of the 5th presented *SB 217*, which would give homeowner's associations the legal standing to bring legal action to enforce a covenant. Representatives of the Community Associations Institute and the Georgia Association of Realtors voiced their concerns on the bill to the Committee. Chairman **Meyer von Bremen** then stated that the Committee would hold the bill until a Committee Substitute could be perfected. Rep. **Terry England** of the 108th then presented *House Bill 53*, which would modify the terms of court for the superior courts of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit. *HB 53* passed unanimously.

State Institutions and Property Committee

Chairman **Johnny Grant** of the 25th called the meeting to order on Tuesday, February 20. First, Sen. **Grant** presented *Senate Resolution 249*, which authorizes the granting of nonexclusive easements for the operation and maintenance of facilities, utilities and right of ways through property owned by the state of Georgia, through the State Properties Commission. **Rod Bowlden** of the State Properties Commission was in attendance to support *SR 249*. After some discussion, the resolution passed with a vote of 2 to 1. *Senate Bill 121*, which was originally presented by Sen. **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** of the 24th, is postponed until the Committee receives a response from the Department of Labor in regards to the bill.

The Committee reconvened Tuesday, February 27, to consider *SB 130*, *175* and *129*, sponsored by Sen. **Grant**, and *SR 270* by Sen. **Nancy Schaefer** of the 50th. *SB 130* abolishes the Georgia Building Authority (Markets), the Georgia Building Authority (Hospital), the Georgia Building Authority (Penal) and the Hazardous Materials Removal Agency and transfers their authority to the Georgia Building Authority (GBA). *SB 130* passed by Committee Substitute with a unanimous vote. *SB 175* addresses the Department of Administrative Services and Procedures for State Purchasing. This bill allows for the reimbursement of legal fees to an officer, official or employee incurred in the successful defense of any criminal proceeding and transfers the property and assets of a dissolved corporation from the DOAS to the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services. *SB 175* passed through Committee with a vote of 5 to 1. The Committee then held a hearing for *SB 129*, which requires inmates to repay the cost of prescription medication from self-inflicted injuries, or injuries that an inmate inflicts on another and also defrays the costs paid by the state or county for prescription medications for inmates that request medical treatment. **Brian Owens**, assistant commissioner for the Department of Corrections, spoke in support of *SB 129*. Next, Sen. **Schaefer** presented *SR 270*, which urges the Capitol Arts Standards Commission to authorize the placement of a Zell Miller statue on the grounds of the State Capitol. *SR 270* passed with a unanimous vote.

State and Local Governmental Operations Committee

On Wednesday, February 21, Chairman **John Wiles** of the 37th called the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee to order. The meeting's business included *Senate Bill 110*, which deals with municipal annexation of territory. The bill's author, Sen. **Chip Pearson** of the 51st, gave a brief presentation on what the bill includes before Sen. **Wiles** gave members of the audience a chance to voice their opinions. **Jim Sullivan** of a Waters Ferry neighborhood, **Mary Welheit** of Holly Commons Subdivision and **Oliver Hunter** of the Georgia Sheriffs Association all gave their support for the bill. Sen. **Pearson** re-addressed the committee, reiterating the points made in favor of the bill. **Ken Vance** of the Milledgeville city council, **Bob Hail** of Sugar Hill, **Harry Logston** of Peachtree City, **Larry Hanson**, city manager of Valdosta and **Jim Burgess**, mayor of Social Circle all spoke in opposition to the bill. The general argument against the bill is that a statewide mandate should not be issued for an issue that is only among a few municipalities. Without a motion for any movement of the bill, Sen. **Wiles** adjourned the meeting.

Transportation Committee

Chairman **Jeff Mullis** of the 53rd called the Committee to order on Thursday, February 22, to first consider *Senate Resolutions 104, 63 and 136*, all of which seek to dedicate bridges in honor of significant Georgia citizens. Senators **Ross Tolleson** of the 20th, **George Hooks** of the 14th and **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd presented their respective resolutions to the Committee. All passed unanimously. The Committee also heard *SR 154*, presented by **Tom Bauer** of the Georgia Transit Association, which proposes creating a Joint Human Services Transportation Study Committee to study the cost effectiveness of Georgia's public transportation system. The Study Committee will be composed of 13 members, including two Senators and two Representatives, along with officials from various state agencies. The resolution passed unanimously. Next, the Committee heard a presentation from **Todd Long** of the Department of Transportation on the Fast Forward Transportation Program, which gave an overview of the program's bonding process. Finally, Chairman **Mullis** presented *SR 263* on behalf of Sen. **Don Balfour** of the 9th, which urges the members of Congress to ensure that funding for the Athens-to-Atlanta Commuter Rail Line is appropriated in the 110th Congress. The resolution passed unanimously.

Urban Affairs Committee

The Urban Affairs Committee did not meet this week.

Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

The Veterans and Military Affairs Committee did not meet this week.

Georgia State Senate First Readers

(Thursday, February 22 –February 28)

Senate Resolutions

- SR 310** **Vladykina, Yana; recognize**
Sens. **Seth Harp** (29th); **Ross Tolleson** (20th); **David Adelman** (42nd);
Steve Henson (41st); **Tim Golden** (8th); and others
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 311** **Salem United Methodist Church; commend**
Sen. **John Douglas** (17th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 312** **Holden, "Cowboy Bill"; commend**
Sen. **John Douglas** (17th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 313** **Happy Home Missionary Baptist Church; recognize**
Sen. **Regina Thomas** (2nd)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 314** **Inman, Coach Frank; commend**
Sens. **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th); **Jeff Chapman** (3rd);
Nancy Schaefer (50th) and **Jack Hill** (4th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 315** **Alpha Kappa Alpha Day; recognize**
Sen. **Horacena Tate** (38th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 316** **Jones, Ella Springs; recognize**
Sen. **Horacena Tate** (38th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 317** **Smith, Dr. Otis; condolences**
Sen. **Horacena Tate** (38th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 318** **Peach County High School Trojans Football Team; commend**
Sen. **George Hooks** (14th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 319** **North Georgia College/State University; urge Board of Regents to
maintain current military program**
Sens. **John Douglas** (17th); **Seth Harp** (29th); **Jack Hill** (4th) and
John Wiles (37th)
Veterans and Military Affairs Committee – 02/22/07
- SR 320** **Johnson, Mr. Elijah; commend**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 321** **Alexander, Ms. Patricia; commend**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07

- SR 322 Williams, Dylan; recognize**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 323 Greear, Lt. Colonel Sol; commend**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 324 Williams, Philandria; commend**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 325 Fudge, Mayor Marcia L.; commend**
Sen. **Ed Tarver** (22nd)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 326 U.S. Congress; urge to reform U.S. sugar policy**
Sen. **John Bulloch** (11th)
Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee – 02/22/07
- SR 327 Joint Atlantic Coastal Beach Preservation and Maintenance Study Committee; create**
Sens. **Eric Johnson** (1st); **Jeff Chapman** (3rd); **Jack Hill** (4th) and **Ross Tolleson** (20th)
Natural Resources and the Environment Committee – 02/22/07
- SR 328 Carmichael, Ricky; recognize**
Sen. **Judson Hill** (32nd)
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 329 Emergency Medical Services Week; recognize**
Sens. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Don Thomas** (54th); **Cecil Station** (18th); **Jack Hill** (4th); **Greg Goggans** (7th) and others
Read and adopted – 02/22/07
- SR 330 Collins, William Littleton; condolences**
Sens. **Ralph Hudgens** (47th) and **Bill Cowsert** (46th)
Read and adopted – 02/27/07
- SR 331 Goad, Perry; condolences**
Sens. **Bill Heath** (31st) and **Preston Smith** (52nd)
Read and adopted – 02/27/07
- SR 332 Mason, Ric; condolences**
Sens. **Bill Heath** (31st) and **Preston Smith** (52nd)
Read and adopted – 02/27/07
- SR 333 Rucker, Mother Ocie "Ann"; condolences**
Sen. **Emanuel Jones** (10th)
Read and adopted – 02/27/07
- SR 334 Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2007 inductees; honoring**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 02/27/07
- SR 335 Rigdon Road Elementary School; congratulate**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 02/27/07

- SR 336 Williams, Cliff; recognize**
Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th) and **Vincent Fort** (39th)
Read and adopted – 02/27/07
- SR 337 Hodge, Mr. Douglas; recognize**
Sens. **Valencia Seay** (34th); **Gail Davenport** (44th);
Horacena Tate (38th) and **Gloria Butler** (55th)
Read and adopted – 02/27/07
- SR 338 Player, Gary; recognize**
Sen. **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th)
Read and adopted – 02/27/07
- SR 339 Designate a Driver Day; recognize**
Sen. **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th)
Read and adopted – 02/27/07
- SR 340 Senate Study Committee; State Boards, Commissions, Authorities, Councils, and Committees; create**
Sens. **Dan Moody** (56th); **Robert Brown** (26th); **George Hooks** (14th) and **Tommie Williams** (19th)
Rules Committee – 02/27/07
- SR 341 Motor Fuel Taxes; funds appropriated; adequate system of public roads/bridges; transportation purposes-CA**
Sens. **Curt Thompson** (5th); **Kasim Reed** (35th) and **Doug Stoner** (6th)
Transportation Committee – 2/27/07
- SR 342 Claxton, Dr. Argene; recognize**
Sen. **Ross Tolleson** (20th)
Read and Adopted – 2/27/07
- SR 343 Robertson, Charles Benjamin "Ben"; condolences**
Sens. **John Wiles** (37th); **Doug Stoner** (6th); **Judson Hill** (32nd);
Chip Rogers (21st) and **Steve Thompson** (33rd)
Read and Adopted – 2/27/07
- SR 344 Citizens' Redistricting Commission; create; apportionment of General Assembly**
Sens. **Ronnie Chance** (16th); **Joseph Carter** (13th) and **Bill Heath** (31st)
Reapportionment and redistricting Committee – 2/27/07
- SR 345 Public Funding; faith based organizations; prevent discrimination**
Sens. **Bill Heath** (31st); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Eric Johnson** (1st);
Ronnie Chance (16th); **Joseph Carter** (13th) and others
Health and Human Services Committee – 2/27/07
- SR 346 Fowler, Jim; recognize**
Sen. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th)
Read and Adopted – 2/27/07
- SR 347 Catholic Day at the Capitol; recognize**
Sen. **Renee Unterman** (45th)
Read and Adopted – 2/27/07
- SR 348 Benefield, Mattie Green; honoring**
Sen. **Regina Thomas** (2nd)
Read and adopted – 02/28/07

- SR 349 Georgia Supreme Court Justice Jesse Groover Bowles, Jr.; condolences**
Sens. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th) and **George Hooks** (14th)
Read and adopted – 02/28/07
- SR 350 2006 Georgia Peach Queens; commend**
Sen. **George Hooks** (14th)
Read and adopted – 02/28/07
- SR 351 Little, Mr. Hiram A. (Joe); recognize**
Sen. **Horacena Tate** (38th)
Read and adopted – 02/28/07
- SR 352 Senior Week at the Capitol; recognize**
Sen. **Renee Unterman** (45th)
Read and adopted – 02/28/07
- SR 353 Foster Youth Day; recognize**
Sen. **Renee Unterman** (45th)
Read and adopted – 02/28/07
- SR 354 Public Health Nurses of Georgia; commend**
Sen. **Renee Unterman** (45th)
Read and adopted – 02/28/07
- SR 355 Health Care Transformation; create joint study committee**
Sens. **Judson Hill** (32nd); **Seth Harp** (29th);
Don Thomas (54th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Bill Hamrick** (30th) and others
Health and Human Services Committee – 02/28/07
- SR 356 United Parcel Service of America, Inc.; recognize**
Sens. **Judson Hill** (32nd) and **Chip Rogers** (21st)
Read and adopted – 02/28/07
- SR 357 Major Byron S. McGuire, Sr. Memorial Bridge; dedicating**
Sen. **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th)
Transportation Committee – 02/28/07
- SR 358 Waters, Michelle; commend**
Sens. **Eric Johnson** (1st); **Regina Thomas** (2nd) and **Jack Hill** (4th)
Read and adopted – 02/28/07
- SR 359 St. Patrick 's Day Parade Committee; recognize**
Sens. **Eric Johnson** (1st); **Regina Thomas** (2nd) and **Jack Hill** (4th)
Read and adopted – 02/28/07
- SR 360 Greater Antioch Missionary Baptist Church; recognize**
Sen. **Robert Brown** (26th)
Read and adopted – 02/28/07
- SR 361 PeachCare for Kids; provide for imposition of a state/use tax at rate of 1 percent; health care coverage for all Georgia children-CA**
Sens. **Curt Thompson** (5th); **Robert Brown** (26th); **Doug Stoner** (6th);
Ronald Ramsey (43rd); **Horacena Tate** (38th) and others
Finance Committee – 2/28/07
- SR 362 Weitnauer, Laura Nicole; commend**
Sens. **Steve Henson** (41st); **Ronald Ramsey** (43rd); **Greg Goggans** (7th);
Ed Tarver (22nd) and **J.B. Powell** (23rd)
Read and Adopted – 2/28/07

- SR 363 Mental Health Service Delivery Commission; create**
Sens. **Johnny Grant** (25th); **Ed Tarver** (22nd); **Renee Unterman** (45th);
Jack Hill (4th); **Greg Goggans** (7th) and others
Health and Human Services Committee – 2/28/07
- SR 364 Georgia Capital Punishment Study Committee; create**
Sens. **Vincent Fort** (39th); **Gail Davenport** (44th); **Nan Orrock** (36th);
Doug Stoner (6th); **Curt Thompson** (5th) and others
Judiciary Committee – 2/28/07
- SR 365 Transportation Funding; create joint study committee**
Sens. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Jim Whitehead** (24th);
Judson Hill (32nd); **Greg Goggans** (7th) and others
Transportation Committee – 2/28/07
- SR 366 Hancock, Ms. Louise Russell; recognize**
Sen. **Joseph Carter** (13th)
Read and Adopted – 2/28/07

Senate Bills:

- SB 201 Georgia Family Law Arbitration Act**
Sens. **Seth Harp** (29th) and **Judson Hill** (32nd)
Judiciary Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 202 Mattie's Call Act; revise/redesignate Article 7**
Sen. **Chip Rogers** (21st)
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 203 Secondary Metals Recyclers; public utilities/transportation;
increased penalties**
Sens. **Seth Harp** (29th); **Cecil Staton** (18th); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **David
Shafer** (48th); **Bill Hamrick** (30th) and others
Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 204 Health; board for distribution/delivery of dead bodies; change
certain provisions**
Sens. **Don Thomas** (54th); **Don Balfour** (9th); **Renee Unterman** (45th);
Nancy Schaefer (50th); **Lee Hawkins** (49th) and others
Health and Human Services Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 205 Prescription Medication Integrity Act**
Sens. **Don Thomas** (54th); **Don Balfour** (9th); **Steve Henson** (41st);
John Wiles (37th); **Renee Unterman** (45th) and others
Health and Human Services Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 206 American Sign Language; elective/foreign language credit for any
student**
Sens. **Regina Thomas** (2nd); **Gloria Butler** (55th); **Horacena Tate** (38th);
Valencia Seay (34th); **Robert Brown** (26th) and others
Education and Youth Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 207 Petroleum Products; internet website for gasoline prices**
Sen. **Curt Thompson** (5th)
Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 208 General Assembly; internet website; provide for content/capabilities**
Sen. **Curt Thompson** (5th)
Rules Committee – 02/22/07

- SB 209** **Augusta Judicial Circuit; judges of Superior Court; supplement; change provisions**
 Sen. **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 210** **Secretary of State; authorize to designate/establish facilities; government agency as a branch depository; Division of Archives/History**
 Sens. **George Hooks** (14th); **Eric Johnson** (1st); **David Shafer** (48th) and **Ed Harbison** (15th)
State Institutions and Property Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 211** **Criminal Procedure; sentencing of defendants guilty of crimes involving bias/prejudice circumstances and parole; repeal certain provisions**
 Sens. **Vincent Fort** (39th); **Robert Brown** (26th); **Kasim Reed** (35th); **Nan Orrock** (36th); **Regina Thomas** (2nd) and others
Judiciary Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 212** **Public Records; disclosure to the news media; public employees**
 Sens. **Don Balfour** (9th); **Tommie Williams** (19th) and **Chip Rogers** (21st)
Ethics Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 213** **Insurance Commissioner; waive retaliatory obligations, prohibition or restrictions under certain circumstances; provide exceptions**
 Sens. **David Shafer** (48th); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th) and **Dan Moody** (56th)
Insurance and Labor Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 214** **State Government; qualifications; call centers; provide definitions**
 Sens. **Curt Thompson** (5th); **Steve Henson** (41st); **Robert Brown** (26th); **David Adelman** (42nd); **Valencia Seay** (34th) and others
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 215** **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse; revise; provide statutory construction of definition; certified registered nurse anesthetists**
 Sen. **Joseph Carter** (13th)
Health and Human Services Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 216** **Grand Juries; certain individuals not qualified to serve as grand jurors**
 Sens. **Ronnie Chance** (16th); **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Joseph Carter** (13th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th) and others
Judiciary Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 217** **Property Owners' Associations; shall have standing as a party to bring legal action to enforce covenants**
 Sens. **Curt Thompson** (5th); **David Shafer** (48th); **Dan Weber** (40th); and **Doug Stoner** (6th)
Special Judiciary Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 218** **Homestead; exemption; certain disabled persons; total value**
 Sen. **Ed Tarver** (22nd)
Finance Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 219** **Offenses; motor vehicles by person to facilitate certain sexual offenses; provide for seizure/forfeiture**
 Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd) and **Joseph Carter** (13th)
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 02/22/07

- SB 220** **Warehousemen; agricultural warehouse receipt requirements, obtaining printed forms, electronic receipts; change provisions**
 Sen. **John Bulloch** (11th)
Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 221** **Solid Waste Management; land disposal sites; permits from Dept. of Natural Resources; change certain provisions**
 Sens. **John Bulloch** (11th); **Ross Tolleson** (20th); **Ronnie Chance** (16th); **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th); **Tommie Williams** (19th) and others
Natural Resources and the Environment Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 222** **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse; revise definition; licensed registered nurse**
 Sens. **Johnny Grant** (25th); **Renee Unterman** (45th); **George Hooks** (14th) and **Don Thomas** (54th)
Health and Human Services Committee – 02/22/07
- SB 223** **Judges; compensation/grants for judicial salaries; change certain provisions**
 Sen. **Preston Smith** (52nd)
Judiciary Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 224** **Motor Vehicles; commercial vehicle and fleet policy; change the definition**
 Sens. **Ralph Hudgens** (47th); **Jeff Chapman** (3rd); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Dan Moody** (56th); **Jack Murphy** (27th) and others
Insurance and Labor Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 225** **Redevelopment; require training with programs; create Redevelopment Powers Training Board**
 Sens. **Doug Stoner** (6th); **Curt Thompson** (5th); **Emanuel Jones** (10th); **Judson Hill** (32nd) and **Chip Rogers** (21st)
Economic Development Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 226** **Qualified Soil Scientists; evaluations/reports shall be accepted by Dept. of Natural Resources/Dept. Human Resources**
 Sens. **Seth Harp** (29th); **Jack Hill** (4th); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th); **Jeff Chapman** (3rd) and **Ross Tolleson** (20th)
Natural Resources and the Environment Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 227** **Clarkesville, City of; new charter**
 Sen. **Nancy Schaefer** (50th)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 228** **Personal Fitness Trainers; provide for licensure; establish Georgia Board of Fitness Trainers**
 Sens. **Emanuel Jones** (10th); **Eric Johnson** (1st); **David Adelman** (42nd); **Gail Davenport** (44th); **Don Thomas** (54th) and others
Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 229** **Hospitals; discount payment/charity care for financially qualified patients; maintain written policies; provide eligibility criteria**
 Sens. **Emanuel Jones** (10th); **Robert Brown** (26th); **Doug Stoner** (6th); **Valencia Seay** (34th) and **Gail Davenport** (44th)
Health and Human Services Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 230** **State Personnel Board/Merit System; define classified/unclassified service**
 Sens. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **John Wiles** (37th) and **Jack Murphy** (27th)
Insurance and Labor Committee – 02/27/07

- SB 231** **Norcross, City of; authorize to exercise all redevelopment/other powers; provide for a referendum**
Sens. **Curt Thompson** (5th) and **David Shafer** (48th)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 232** **Court Reports; remove requirement of publishing a volume of rules from the definition of reports**
Sens. **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Bill Cowsert** (46th); **Kasim Reed** (35th) and **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th)
Judiciary Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 233** **Roads; collections, expenditures and exemptions with respect to revenue; change certain provisions**
Sens. **Curt Thompson** (5th) and **Doug Stoner** (6th)
Transportation Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 234** **Secretary of State; collect a filing fee for certificates of conversion; Georgia corporation to foreign corporation**
Sens. **Bill Cowsert** (46th); **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th); **David Adelman** (42nd); **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Seth Harp** (29th) and others
Special Judiciary Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 235** **Corrections, Dept. Of; certified correctional employees; leave under certain conditions may retain their badges**
Sens. **Johnny Grant** (25th) and **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th)
State Institutions and Property Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 236** **Georgia Personal Identity Protection Act; state agencies; breach of security; personal information**
Sen. **Chip Rogers** (21st)
Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 237** **Architecture; establish minimum training requirements to qualify for certification; Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers**
Sen. **Eric Johnson** (1st)
Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee – 02/27/07
- SB 238** **Evidence; tampering; remove requirement that such offense involve another person**
Sen. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th)
Special Judiciary Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 239** **Farm Laborers; provide a definition**
Sen. **Greg Goggans** (7th)
Insurance and Labor Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 240** **Employees/Teachers Retirement; membership/participation in any public retirement system may be transferred or terminated; procedures**
Sens. **Bill Heath** (31st) and **Judson Hill** (32nd)
Retirement Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 241** **Health Insurance; comprehensively revise the laws of Georgia**
Sen. **Judson Hill** (32nd)
Insurance and Labor Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 242** **Chattooga County; provide homestead exemption; based on income for certain residents**
Sen. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 02/28/07

- SB 243** **Ethics in Government Act; change provisions**
 Sen. **Renee Unterman** (45th)
Ethics Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 244** **Town of Tallulah Falls; town council; quorum, voting and special meetings; change provisions**
 Sen. **Nancy Schaefer** (50th)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 245** **Alcoholic Beverages; consumption on the premises; authorize governing authority of county/municipality**
 Sen. **Doug Stoner** (6th)
Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 246** **Buildings; advisory committee on industrialized buildings; appointment/vacancies; change composition**
 Sens. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Don Thomas** (54th); **Jack Hill** (4th); **J. B. Powell** (23rd) and **Doug Stoner** (6th)
Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 247** **Cobb County, State Court of; change compensation of judges**
 Sens. **John Wiles** (37th); **Steve Thompson** (33rd); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Doug Stoner** (6th) and **Judson Hill** (32nd)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 248** **Cobb County, State Court of; change compensation of solicitor-general**
 Sens. **John Wiles** (37th); **Steve Thompson** (33rd); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Doug Stoner** (6th) and **Judson Hill** (32nd)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 249** **Sexual Offender Registration Review Board; register with sheriff of any county where offender resides**
 Sens. **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th); **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th); **Jeff Chapman** (3rd); **John Douglas** (17th); **Cecil Staton** (18th) and others
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 250** **Public Property; roofing of state owned buildings/facilities; provide standards**
 Sens. **Steve Henson** (41st) and **Ronald Ramsey** (43rd)
State Institutions and Property Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 251** **Motor Vehicles; require establishment by Dept. of Revenue of internet website for stolen/towed motor vehicles**
 Sen. **Curt Thompson** (5th)
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 252** **Firearms Dealers; transfer authority for regulation to state revenue commissioner**
 Sen. **John Wiles** (37th)
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 253** **Advance Practice Registered Nurses; on-site patient evaluation; provide examination**
 Sens. **John Wiles** (37th) and **Don Thomas** (54th)
Health and Human Services Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 254** **Georgia State Indemnification Commission; composition; define certain terms**
 Sens. **Johnny Grant** (25th); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Ronnie Chance** (16th) and **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th)
Insurance and Labor Committee – 02/28/07

- SB 255 Death Penalty; provide moratorium on the administration of a death sentence**
Sens. **Vincent Fort** (39th); **Gail Davenport** (44th); **Nan Orrock** (36th); **Doug Stoner** (6th); **Curt Thompson** (5th) and others
Judiciary Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 256 Outdoor Advertising Signs; height limitations; conditions for lowering of existing signs**
Sens. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Bill Heath** (31st); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Don Thomas** (54th); **Chip Rogers** (21st) and others
Transportation Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 257 Dropout Detention Act; revise the age of mandatory education**
Sens. **Vincent Fort** (39th); **Horacena Tate** (38th) and **Regina Thomas** (2nd)
Education and Youth Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 258 Controlled Substances; ban sale of marijuana/hemp flavored candy; provide for penalties**
Sens. **Vincent Fort** (39th); **Horacena Tate** (38th) and **Regina Thomas** (2nd)
Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 259 Warrants; issuance of search warrants by judicial officers; change provisions**
Sen. **Vincent Fort** (39th)
Judiciary Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 260 License Plates; revenue commissioner entitled to seize the license plates; vehicle's registration has been revoked/canceled**
Sens. **Chip Rogers** (21st) and **Judson Hill** (32nd)
Finance Committee – 02/28/07
- SB 261 Tybee Island, City of; council terms/qualifications for office**
Sen. **Eric Johnson** (1st)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 02/28/07

House Bills:

- HB 78 Bona fide conservation use property; additional acts; provisions**
Reps. **Richard Royal** (17th); **Terry England** (108th); **Tom McCall** (30th); **Jay Roberts** (154th); **Calvin Hill** (21st) and others
Finance Committee – 2/28/07
- HB 90 Funeral establishments; adequate stock of funeral caskets; provisions**
Rep. **Chuck Sims** (169th)
Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee – 2/27/07
- HB 128 Sales and use tax exemption; certain school supplies; energy efficient products; provide**
Reps. **Lynn Smith** (70th); **Jan Jones** (46th); **Terry England** (108th); **Howard Mosby** (90th); **Randy Nix** (69th) and others
Finance Committee – 2/28/07
- HB 139 Estates and wills; descent and distribution; provisions**
Reps. **Wendell Willard** (49th); **Edward Lindsey** (54th); **Roger Lane** (167th); **Steve Tumlin** (38th); **Mary Oliver** (83rd) and others
Judiciary Committee – 2/28/07

- HB 155** **Human Resources, Department of; personal care home owners; criminal history; permit**
Rep. **Wendell Willard** (49th)
Health and Human Services Committee – 02/22/07
- HB 162** **Sales and use tax; performing arts amphitheater facilities; provide exemption**
Reps. **Charles Martin** (47th); **Mark Burkhalter** (50th) and **Jan Jones** (46th)
Finance Committee – 2/28/07
- HB 192** **Transportation, Department of; contracts; provisions**
Reps. **Vance Smith** (129th); **Melvin Everson** (106th); **Carl Rogers** (26th); and **Barry Loudermilk** (14th)
Transportation Committee – 02/22/07
- HB 202** **Transportation, Department of; contractors; eligibility; provisions**
Reps. **Ben Harbins** (118th); **Barry Fleming** (117th) & **Barbara Sims** (119th)
Transportation Committee – 2/28/07
- HB 221** **Professional malpractice charges; affidavit; change certain provisions**
Reps. **John Heard** (104th) and **Wendell Willard** (49th)
Judiciary – 2/28/07
- HB 233** **Long-term Care Facility Resident Abuse Reporting Act; change definition**
Reps. **David Ralston** (7th); **Robert Mumford** (95th); **Timothy Bearden** (68th); **Mary Oliver** (83rd) and **Ronald Forster** (3rd)
Special Judiciary Committee – 02/22/07
- HB 240** **Retail Installment and Home Solicitation Sales Act; increase delinquency charges**
Rep. **Ben Harbin** (118th)
Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee – 2/27/07
- HB 319** **District attorneys; increase annual salaries**
Reps. **Barry Fleming** (117th); **Wendell Willard** (49th); **David Ralston** (7th); **Earl Ehrhart** (36th); **Ben Harbin** (118th) and others
Appropriations Committee – 2/27/07
- HB 357** **Revenue and taxation; define certain terms; provisions**
Rep. **Larry O’Neal** (146th)
Finance Committee – 2/28/07
- HB 368** **Public Safety, Department of; sell and purchase of motor vehicles; allow commissioner**
Reps. **Doug Collins** (27th); **Charles Martin** (47th); **Burke Day** (163rd) and **Ben Harbin** (118th)
State Institute and Property – 2/28/07
- HB 465** **Atlanta, City of; district board member appointment; change provision**
Reps. **Edward Lindsey** (54th); **Bob Holmes** (61st); **Margaret Kaiser** (59th); **Roger Bruce** (64th); **Kathy Ashe** (56th) and others
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 02/22/07
- HB 473** **Banks County; board of commissioners; change compensation**
Rep. **Jeanette Jamieson** (28th)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 2/22/07

- HB 477** **Richland, City of; new charter; reincorporate and provide**
Rep. **Bob Hanner** (148th)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 2/27/07
- HB 480** **Norcross, City of; manager-council government; change to**
Reps. **Pedro Marin** (96th); **Hugh Floyd** (99th) and **Tom Rice** (51st)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 2/27/07
- HB 482** **Bryan County; county surveyor; abolish office**
Reps. **Bob Lane** (158th) and **Ron Stephens** (164th)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 2/27/07
- HB 483** **Lilburn, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; authorize**
Rep. **Clay Cox** (102nd)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 2/27/07
- HB 493** **Doraville, City of; ad valorem tax; certain residents; provide**
homestead exemption
Rep. **Jill Chambers** (81st)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 2/27/07
- HB 499** **Chatham County; certain judges; change compensation**
Reps. **Burke Day** (163rd); **Earl Carter** (159th); **Bob Bryant** (160th);
Craig Gordon (162nd) and **Ron Stephens** (164th)
State and Local Governmental Operations – 2/28/07
- HB 501** **Hiawassee, City of; ad valorem tax; municipal purposes; provide**
homestead exemption
Rep. **Charles Jenkins** (8th)
State and Local Governmental Operations – 2/28/07
- HB 502** **Towns County School District; ad valorem tax; provide homestead**
exemption
Rep. **Charles Jenkins** (8th)
State and Local Governmental Operations – 2/28/07
- HB 506** **Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit; judges; provide compensation**
supplement
Reps. **Billy Mitchell** (88th); **Pam Stephenson** (92nd); **Mike Jacobs** (80th);
Mary Oliver (83rd); **Kevin Levitas** (82nd) and others
State and Local Governmental Operations – 2/28/07
- HB 508** **Rockdale County State Court; salary of the judge; change provisions**
Reps. **Robert Mumford** (95th); **Ron Sailor** (93rd); **Randal Mangham** (94th)
and **Pam Stephenson** (92nd)
State and Local Governmental Operations – 2/28/07
- HB 509** **Young Harris, City of; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption**
Rep. **Charles Jenkins** (8th)
State and Local Governmental Operations – 2/28/07
- HB 513** **Eastern Judicial Circuit; salary of chief judge; provide additional**
supplement
Reps. **Burke Day** (163rd); **Earl Carter** (159th); **Bob Bryant** (160th);
Craig Gordon (162nd) and **Ron Stephens** (164th)
State and Local Governmental Operations – 2/28/07
- HB 520** **Lawrenceville, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; authorize**
Rep. **John Heard** (104th)
State and Local Governmental Operations – 2/28/07

House Resolutions:

- HR 57** **Elbert County; conveyance of certain state owned real property; authorize**
Rep. **Tom McCall** (30th)
State Institutions and Properties – 2/27/07
- HR 146** **Bohler, Dr. Charles Emory; designate portions of SR 26**
Reps. **Bob Lane** (158th); **Jon Burns** (157th); **Butch Parrish** (156th);
Earl Carter (159th); **Ron Stephens** (164th) and others
Transportation Committee – 02/22/07
- HR 147** **Erk Russell Highway; designate portions of SR 26**
Reps. **Bob Lane** (158th); **Jon Burns** (157th);
Butch Parrish (156th); **Bob Smith** (113th); **Earl Carter** (159th) and others
Transportation Committee – 02/22/07
- HR 171** **Cason and Virginia Callaway Conservation Highway; dedicate portions of SR 116**
Rep. **Vance Smith** (129th)
Transportation Committee – 2/27/07

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